

Please add the following new claims:

12. A hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 1, wherein said alloy is represented by the formula  $\text{La}_u\text{R}_v\text{Mg}_w\text{Ni}_x\text{Co}_y\text{M}_z$  or  $\text{La}_u\text{R}_v\text{Ca}_w\text{Ni}_x\text{Co}_y\text{M}_z$ , wherein:  
R is a rare earth element other than La;  
M is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mn, Al, Si, Sn, Fe, Cu, Ti, Zr, and V; and  
the ratio of  $(x+y+z)/(u+v)$  is 4 to 7.

13. A method for manufacturing a hydrogen absorbing alloy having a  $\text{CaCu}_5$  type crystal structure in its principal phase, comprising:  
forming a melt of elemental components selected to form a hydrogen absorbing alloy; and  
adding a Mg source material to said melt in an amount of 0.1 to 1.0% by weight based on the entire weight of the hydrogen absorbing alloy.

14. A method for manufacturing a hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 13, wherein said melt comprises Ni and Co; and wherein the step of adding a Mg source material to said melt occurs after said melt forming step.

15. A method for manufacturing a hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 14, wherein the Mg source material is selected from the group consisting of metallic Mg and Mg alloy with a melting point of  $650^\circ\text{C}$  or higher.

16. A nickel-metal hydride rechargeable battery comprising an electrode formed of a hydrogen absorbing alloy having a  $\text{CaCu}_5$  type crystal structure in its principal phase, said alloy comprising La in an amount of 24 to 33% by weight in the alloy, and Mg or Ca in an amount of 0.1 to 1.0% by weight in the alloy.